

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 4259

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, XA
SUBJECT: FONMIN FAHMY'S COMMENTS ON SOVIET M.E-AFRICAN STRATEGY

SUMMARY: DURING MEETING WITH CHARGE MARCH 12 FONMIN
FAHMY WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT HIS VIEW OF SOVIET
MACHINATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. HE COMPLAINED
OF WHAT HE REGARDED AS U.S. OBLIVION TO WHAT SOVIETS
AND THEIR AGENTS WERE UP TO AND OUR INACTION IN
FACE OF THIS THREAT. FAHMY SAYS SUBJECT WILL

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BE RAISED BY PRESIDENT SADAT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
END SUMMARY

1. FAHMY GAVE AS RECENT EVIDENCE OF SOVIET STRATEGY
THE TRAVEL OF FIDEL CASTRO TO LIBYA WITH A STOP-
OVER IN ALGIERS AND HIS CURRENT PRESENCE IN PDRY;
FAHMY SAID WE WOULD SEE THAT HIS NEXT STOP WOULD BE

IN SOMALIA. WHAT COULD CASTRO BE UP TO IN THESE COUNTRIES? HE WAS ACTING AT SOVIET BIDDING AND BAD THINGS WOULD COME OF IT. WE WOULD SEE ANOTHER ANGOLA IN LIBYA, WHICH HAD PLENTY OF WEAPONS AND MONEY BUT NO TRAINED SOLDIERY. FAHMY SAID SOVIET STRATEGY WAS CLEAR: TO ENCIRCLE EGYPT WITH HOSTILE REGIMES CONTROLLED BY MOSCOW AND TO CAPTURE THE HORN OF AFRICA. AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE HE CITED THE CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER'S HAVING SPENT FOUR DAYS IN ADEN; WHAT COULD HE BE DOING ALL THAT TIME IN THAT PLACE?

2. TURNING TO LIBYA FAHMY ASKED WHY WE WERE NOT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE "MADMAN" QADHAFFI. HE QUICKLY ASSERTED THAT EGYPT WOULD GET RID OF HIM BUT OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE NOT BEING HELPFUL. THOUGH THEY WANTED QADHAFFI REMOVED, THEY HAD NOT RESPONDED TO EGYPT'S REQUEST FOR THE LOAN OF C-130 AIRCRAFT.

3. CONTINUING HIS SWING AROUND AFRICA, FAHMY SAID THE EGYPTIANS WERE TRYING TO GAIN SOME INFLUENCE WITH IDI AMIN. THOUGH HE WAS ERRATIC AND UNPREDICTABLE, EGYPT FELT HE SHOULD BE OFFERED SOME ALTERNATIVE TO DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION. THE EGYPTIANS HAD TALKED TO HIM DURING THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT AND WERE HOPEFUL HE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE.

4. FAHMY CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT EGYPT WANTED TO WORK CLOSELY AND "PHYSICALLY" WITH THE US ON THESE PROBLEMS. EGYPT COULD BE
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HELPFUL TO US INTERESTS, BUT SEVERAL OF THESE COUNTRIES (HE NAMED SOMALIA AND UGANDA) WANTED ARMS, WHICH EGYPT COULD NOT SPARE. WOULD THE US PROVIDE EGYPT WITH ARMS THAT COULD REPLACE THOSE EGYPT WOULD SEND TO THESE COUNTRIES?

5. FAHMY CONCLUDED THAT SOVIET STRATEGY IN THE AREA AND THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WERE SUBJECTS PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH.

6. I TOLD FAHMY WE WANTED VERY MUCH TO COOPERATE WITH EGYPT ON THESE PROBLEMS, BUT COULD OFFER NO ASSURANCES ABOUT SPECIFIC PLANS WITHOUT KNOWING FURTHER DETAILS. FAHMY SMILED AND SAID WE WOULD BE INFORMED. I ALSO REMINDED FAHMY HE OWED US A PAPER ON EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA.

7. COMMENT: THE ABOVE ARE FAVORITE THEMES OF

FAHMY'S WHICH WILL NO DOUBT BE PURSUED DURING SADAT
VISIT TO WASHINGTON. FAHMY DID NOT ELUCIDATE ON
ON CRYPTIC REMARKS ABOUT USE OF C-130'S FROM
OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH LIBYA.
MATTHEWS

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FONMIN FAHMY WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT HIS VIEW OF SOV
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